Cost Escalation of Dulhastt Hydro-Electric Power Project

1003. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of Dulhasti Hydro-Electric Power Pro-jet has, no far, escalated from the original ot of Rs. 1,262 crores to Rs. 5,000 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the French Consortium, which is exeduting the project has told Government about its intention to withdraw from the project; and

(c) what are the reasons for the phenomenal increase in the cost of the project and what is the reaction of Government to the Consortium's intention of abandoning the project half-way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) According to present estimates of NHPC, the Project cost has increased to Rs. 2271 crores, mainly on account of price escalation and exchange rate changes. In the present security environment the French Consortium is unwilling to perform any functions on site while the consortium is in the process of exploring other options for project completion with their continued involvement.

Appointment of Chairman of NHPC

1004. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of the NHPC has been affected due to the delay in the appointment of a permanent Chairman;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are in the process of winding up many projects of NHPC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The working of the NHPC has not been aff ected due to the delay in the appoint ment of a regular incumbent to the post.

(b) and (c) Government is not considering winding up any of the approved project* of NHPC.

Lack of Funds for Completion of Power Projects

1005. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that some sanctioned power projects in some states could not be implemented for want of funds;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) What steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes,